

**BACKGROUND:** Terms in the Age category refer to the chronological age of the group members. In MARC authority records the category is represented by the three-letter code **age**. This instruction sheet provides specific guidelines on assigning terms from the Age category to bibliographic records and to authority records for works, as well as guidelines on establishing new terms in the category. For examples of MARC 21 records to which demographic group terms have been assigned, see L 410-412. For examples of MARC 21 authority records for LC demographic group terms, see L 405.

### **1. Assigning terms in bibliographic records and in authority records for works.**

**a. General rule.** Assign terms in accordance with L 480 and L 485 and the special provisions below.

**b. Post-coordinating with terms from the Educational Level category.** Assign one or more terms from the Age category when the intended audience of a resource, or a resource's creator/contributor, is people of particular age. Because users looking for resources by or for people under the age of 18 may search by either age group or educational level, *optionally* assign a term from the Educational Level category if the appropriate term is immediately apparent. *Example:*

**Title:** I lived on Butterfly Hill.

**Audience:** Ages 10-14.

**Terms:** Preteens  
Teenagers  
Middle school students  
Junior high school students

*[Middle school students and Junior high school students optionally assigned to provide access by educational level]*

### **c. Prohibition on assigning terms.**

**(1) Resources for adults.** Do not routinely assign the term **Adults** to describe either the intended audiences or the creators/contributors of resources. Assign the term only when the resource explicitly indicates that adults are the intended audience.

**1. Assigning terms in bibliographic records and in authority records for works.**

**c. Prohibition on assigning terms. (Continued)**

**(2) Diffuse audience.** Do not assign a term from the Age category to describe the intended audience if it is so diffuse that the resource can be described as being for a general audience. *Example:*

*Title:* Jonathan Livingston Seagull.

If the resource explicitly indicates that the intended audience consists of a broad age group, however, assign terms to describe the audience. *Example:*

*Title:* Road adventures USA.

*Data:* Ages 10 and up.

*Terms:* Preteens  
Teenagers  
Adults

*[Audience explicitly stated; three terms are necessary to describe it]*

**2. Proposing terms.** There are not any specific guidelines for proposing terms in the Age category. Follow the general principles in L 435-476.